



In This Issue:

- FY10 Budget Summary
- North Central Area Office has Greatest Number of Legalizations!
- DCF Applauded for Increasing Diversity in Hiring Practices
- Grandparent’s Commission Embarks on Statewide Listening Tour
- PlusOne Challenge Underway
- Implementation of Integrated Casework Practice Model Begins
- 2009 Performance Recognition Program: Nominations Now Being Accepted
- Announcements

FY10 Budget Summary

The General Appropriations Act (GAA) of 2010 funds the Department of Children and Families (DCF) at \$786.3M. The GAA represents a –\$30.1M (3.7%) decrease over FY09 projected spending of \$816.4M.

ACCOUNT	NAME	FY10 CONF
4800-0015	Admin	\$69,880,096
4800-0025	FC Review	\$2,689,807
4800-0030	Regional Leads	\$7,000,000
4800-1100	Social Workers	\$155,319,220
4800-0038	Svcs for Child and Fam	\$299,234,364
4800-0041	Group Care Svcs	\$223,569,417
4800-0036	SAIN	\$697,508
4800-0151	Juvenile Offender	\$270,919
4800-0016	Roca	\$500,000
4800-0091	Training Institute	\$2,672,812
4800-1400	Domestic Violence	\$21,925,460
TOTAL		\$783,759,603

[top]

North Central Area Office has Greatest Number of Legalizations!

We’d like to congratulate the North Central Area Office for having the greatest number of adoptions (including one who was almost 18 years of age at legalization) and the second highest number of guardianships with a total of 82 legalizations this last fiscal year! [top]

DCF Applauded for Increasing Diversity in Hiring Practices

The Commonwealth’s Human Resources Division recently applauded DCF for our efforts in diversifying our workforce. According to the DCF Affirmative Action Plan Progress Report generated by HRD, in FY2009, 76.6% of DCF’s overall hires were female and 39% were minorities. Of our management hires, 83.3% were females, and 50% were minorities. Of our overall promotions, females comprised of 81.6% and minorities, 28.1%. Persons with disabilities comprised 2.8%. [top]

Grandparent's Commission Embarks on Statewide Listening Tour

The Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Grandparents Raising Grandchildren will conduct seven statewide listening tours, to assess the needs of the Commonwealth's grandparents raising their grandchildren.

Established to help grandparents with legal, educational, health, economic and emotional issues, the Commission will serve as a resource for state agencies, legislators, the executive branch and private agencies in determining policy and practice. Please join the Commission at one of the listed locations and share your concerns and ideas. The following are the stops on the tour:

- * **Bourne** Date: **September 14, 2009**
Location: Bourne Council of Aging
Time: 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
- * **Pittsfield** Date: **September 24, 2009**
Location: Pittsfield Council on Aging
Time: 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm
- * **Boston** Date: **October 6, 2009**
Location: Tobin Community Center
Time: 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
- * **Dartmouth** Date: **October 15, 2009**
Location: U/MASS Dartmouth
Time: 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
- * **Chicopee** Date: **October 20, 2009**
Location: Chicopee Council of Aging
Time: 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
- * **Lawrence** Date: **November 10, 2009**
Location: Lawrence Council of Aging
Time: 9:30 am – 11:30 am
- * **Worcester** Date: **November 17, 2009**
Location: Worcester Council of Aging
Time: 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Please look for more information the Statewide Listening Tour on the DCF and EOEa websites, as well as in the September edition of the DCF Newsletter. [[top](#)]

Implementation of Integrated Casework Practice Model Begins

During the pre-implementation phase of the new DCF Integrated Casework Practice model, the Department gathered substantial input from staff across the agency. Area Offices engaged in the components of the model on a sample of cases and provided their observations on workflow processes, practice guidance, and tools. These observations were reviewed by the Steering Committee and have helped to guide the final design of the casework practice model.

In July, the Department began the implementation of the Integrated Casework Practice model. This implementation process will be ramped up over the coming months, as Area Offices begin making adjustments to the workflow processes, and as training and coaching is available.

Adaptations to Family Net to support the casework practice model will be available on August 19th. Changes to the intake, investigation and assessment screens will be in place at that time. In addition, Family Net will calculate the new timeframes that are being implemented. The Danger and Safety and Risk Assessment tools will be available on i-FamilyNet – the web based version of FamilyNet.

A comprehensive plan for training and coaching on the new casework practice model is underway. Regional coaches have been identified and will play a key role in providing and coordinating training within each Region. During August and September, a series of general orientation sessions will be held to provide staff with the basic information they will need to implement the new casework practice model. Additional, specific training will be provided locally to further support staff as they begin to implement components of the model. Ongoing coaching will be available in the Area Offices through the end of December.

Over the coming months, as the Department continues with the implementation, opportunities for ongoing dialogue on best practices will be made available. It is anticipated that the new casework practice model will be fully implemented by the end of December. [[top](#)]



PlusOne Challenge Underway

Please join DCF and Jordan's Furniture as we challenge each and every foster, pre-adoptive, and adoptive parent; DCF, MARE and AMS agency staff person to 'recruit one' individual or couple to become a foster or adoptive parent(s). The PlusOne Challenge kicked off in January and will end in early spring of 2010. Individuals who complete the necessary requirements and become a licensed foster parent to a child will be invited to a grand celebration at the Reading Jordan's store. For more information, please call: 1-800-KIDS-508. [[top](#)]

Performance Recognition

2009 Performance Recognition Program: Nominations Now Being Accepted

The 2009 DCF Performance Recognition Program nomination process is now underway! If you know or work with an individual or group who you feel exemplifies exceptional managerial, supervisory, administrative, direct service or clerical achievements, now is the time to spotlight their contributions and say "thank you" for serving the Commonwealth's children and families. The Department is now accepting nominations for:

- * The Commonwealth Citation Award;
- * The DCF Commissioner's Award;
- * The Linda Silva Memorial Award;
- * The Caring for Kids Award;
- * The Jerry Award;
- * The Community Partner Award;
- * Manuel Carballo Governor's Award for Excellence in Public Service;
- * Eugene H. Rooney, Jr. Public Service Award; and
- * The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Workforce Mentoring Award.

The ceremony to confer the awards will be scheduled for this fall. Please read the nomination instructions carefully and give specific examples of how each individual or group demonstrates the criteria or focus of the award being recommended. All nomination forms can be found on the DCF intranet.

Please note: ALL nomination forms must be submitted by the close of business on August 14, 2009 to: Kimberly Norato, DCF Central Office, 24 Farnsworth St., Boston, MA 02210 or via fax at 617-439-4482. Thank you! [[top](#)]

Announcements

Department of Developmental Services (DDS)

The Patrick Administration announced in June that the state agency serving individuals with developmental disabilities was officially renamed the Department of Developmental Services.

Previously known as the Department of Mental Retardation, the agency's new name reflects the importance of promoting dignity and respect for people with intellectual disabilities. [[top](#)]

DCF Office Moves

The **Boston Regional Office** has moved to a new location:

451 Blue Hill Avenue, 2nd Floor
Dorchester, MA 02121
617-989-9200 [[top](#)]

Contact Information

Massachusetts Department of Children & Families
Angelo McClain, Commissioner

Central Office
24 Farnsworth Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02210

617-748-2000
1-800-kids-508
www.state.ma.us/dcf

For general questions or comments please contact:
alison.goodwin@state.ma.us

For Intranet updates, contact:
joseph.green@state.ma.us

For Internet updates, contact:
alison.goodwin@state.ma.us